

The Romulus News

JANUARY 29, 1999 – FEBRUARY 11, 1999

"the little paper"

VOLUME 12 NUMBER 13

Timely Tidbits ...

Town Hall Meetings

U.S. Congresswoman Lynn Rivers will host the following Town Hall meetings:

- Saturday, January 30, from 10 to 11:30 a.m. at the Maplewood Community Center (located at 31735 Maplewood Road, Garden City), and
- Saturday, February 13, from 10 to 11:30 a.m. at the Dozier Recreation Center (located at 2025 Middlebelt Road, Inkster).

Constituents are encouraged to attend with any questions and/or concerns they may have about the Federal government.

For more information, please contact April Lewis at Rivers' Ypsilanti office (734-485-3741).

Mayor's Chair Hosts Black Leaders

The next edition of the monthly *Mayor's Chair* program will air on cable channel 40 beginning at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, February 11. Special guests will be a number of Romulus' African American leaders and historians. Those who would like to be present when the program is taped must be seated in the Council Chambers at Romulus City Hall by 6:15 p.m. Beginning at 6 p.m., home viewers can call 942-6852 to ask questions of the Mayor and his guests.

Crime Prevention

The second in a series of monthly meetings on crime prevention will be held at the Romulus Public Library (11121 Wayne Road, next to City Hall) from 1 to 2 p.m. on Thursday, February 11.

Officer Joe Richardson of the Romulus Police Department will be on hand to discuss ways to protect yourself and your property, how to set up a neighborhood watch program, and other topics related to crime prevention. He will also answer questions related to – and hear complaints or concerns about – law enforcement.

For more information, contact either Richardson (734-942-6871) or Diane Hazen, Head Librarian (734-942-7589). □

Seniors Host Black History Luncheon

By Kristi Stephens

Nearly 60 people were in attendance at the Romulus Recreation building on Tuesday, January 26, for the second annual Black History Luncheon, an event cosponsored by the Romulus Senior Citizens Center and Club #1. Five prominent African Americans from the Romulus area – Ed Clark, Principal of Romulus Middle School; former Romulus Recreation Director DuWayne Martin; Reverend David Walker, who assists Reverend Marcus Johnson at the Second Baptist Church of Romulus; and Romulus Community Schools Board of Education members Eva Webb and Michael Woods – addressed the guests before lunch. During the meal, entertainment was provided by Sara McChristin, who sang a number of songs, accompanying herself on the keyboard.

During her own portion of the program, Webb offered a message of perseverance through adversity, and stressed the importance of each person doing his or her part to make our world a better place.

"From birth to five years old, I was considered a handicapped person," said Webb, who explained that she had been born with one leg three inches shorter than the other. "I experienced constant pain, but, with the encouragement of my mother and dad, I accepted my condition and dealt with the pain. Today, I stand before you, not pain free, but not walking with a built-up shoe nor with a limp. . . . I achieved."

Webb went on to talk of how that lesson in endurance, along with guidance from her elders, helped her in later life.

"Being one of five African Americans in my entire high school was more than a challenge," she told her listeners. "I looked at my situation and remembered what my grandparents taught me: to always make the best of any situation. I did . . . and I achieved."

Among the achievements of which Webb is the most proud is her involvement with young people.

"Our children throughout the community . . . need love and understanding in their lives," she said. "If I can give that to them, then I will have achieved my mission, of which we are all a part: to dedicate ourselves toward the betterment of mankind."

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Guest speakers at the Romulus Senior Center's annual Black History Luncheon included (from left): Ed Clark, Michael Woods, Reverend David Walker, and Eva Webb.



Guests enjoyed good food and good fellowship.



(From left) Richard Marsh, Community Development Director for the City of Romulus; David Cox, Assistant to the Mayor; and Mayor William Oakley were among those who attended the luncheon.

Brian A. Oakley Sworn in as 34th District Court Judge

By Kristi Stephens

Following his November 1998 election to the 34th District Court bench, Judge Brian A. Oakley was congratulated by numerous colleagues, family members, and friends after being sworn in by retiring Judge Henry Zaborowski at a special ceremony held at the DoubleTree Hotel on Thursday, January 14.

It was an emotional evening for Oakley, who later described his feelings about the event.

"As I walked down the aisle toward the podium, it felt like I was getting married again," he explained. "I suppose that was because of the underlying similarities between the two situations: I was taking a solemn vow that would make a drastic change in my life."

Oakley said that, for him, the ceremony marked the culmination of a lot of hard work.

"I can't tell you how elated I was," he grinned. "It was a wonderful experience to share that moment with so many of the people whose unflagging efforts helped to bring me there, and whose belief in me never wavered."



Judge Brian A. Oakley (left) is sworn in by Judge Zaborowski.

Another thrill for Oakley was Zaborowski's involvement in the ceremony.

"It was an honor for me to be sworn in by someone who has served the surrounding communities as long and as well as Judge Zaborowski has," he stated. "I can only hope that I'll do as well as I assume his duties."

Although Oakley has been working at his new job for only a few weeks, he says that he already feels at ease.

"Everyone at the Court has gone out of their way to make me comfortable here," he said, "and I really appreciate all their help." □

Seniors Host Black History Luncheon

continued from page 1

Other speakers also addressed the importance of community service.

"I feel that I owe something to the community that has done so much for me," said Clark, who described himself as a "homegrown product" of Romulus. "Throughout my life, I was blessed with the support of many good people who helped me and made opportunities for me," he later stated. "I have tried, over the years, to give that same kind of support to those around me, and my current position as Principal of Romulus Middle School has proven to be a wonderful opportunity to continue to make a difference in the lives of others."

It's so fulfilling to know that I'm helping my home town's young people move toward a bright future, just as I was once helped."

Woods, who also grew up in Romulus and has deep roots in the community, has a similar viewpoint.

"I've been fortunate to achieve a good deal in my life," Woods said later, "and I'm thankful to the people who supported me in my efforts. I'm proud to have been the first African American to serve as President of the Romulus Board of Education; proud of the relationships I've formed with my family and my friends; and proud to work in and for the community that has given me so much."



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Businesses Receive Job-training Grants

State Representative Ray Basham has announced that four area businesses — Lincoln Park Engineering and Aztec Manufacturing Corporation of Romulus, and Horizon Enterprises Group and Industrial Power Systems, Inc., of Taylor — have been awarded Economic Development Job Training (EDJT) grants by the Michigan Jobs Commission. According to Basham, the grants will provide funding to be used at Henry Ford Community College and Schoolcraft College for the training of nearly 500 current employees and 20 new hires at the four companies.

"In order for our local companies to be able to compete in a global market-

place, they must be able to train and upgrade the skills of their workforce," Basham explained. "These grants ensure that the workers in Michigan's fastest-growing companies will have an educated and highly skilled workforce that will help ensure Michigan's continued economic success."

Funding for the EDJT grants come from the State's Economic Development Job Training program that helps Michigan businesses create new jobs or retain existing jobs by improving the skills and competitiveness of Michigan's workforce. Under the program, employers must provide a 25% match for training existing workers. □

McEducators' Day Raises Funds for RHS Student of the Month Program



(From left) Florence Satterlee, Melvin Kimbrough, Joyce Evans, Henry James, Paula Smith, and Doug Hoffman were among 17 Romulus High School staff members who worked a few hours at the Wayne Road McDonald's on January 19 to raise money for the school's Student of the Month program. Other staffers included Jill Avery, Terri Brinson, Lynne Cadden, Mildred Clayton, Gail Coleman, Gen Dugan, Carol Harliff, Danielle Hunt, Kristina Mahaney, Thalia Swint, and Jennie Watkins. If totals equal those of last year, the group will have raised about \$600.



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Romulus Police Department Promotes, Transfers Officers

The Romulus Police Department has announced a number of promotions and transfers that became effective on January 17, 1999.

Kreg Booker, who was promoted to the rank of lieutenant, has left his assignment as the sergeant in charge of the Community Neighborhood Services Unit (CNS), and has been assigned to the Uniform Patrol Division, working as the midnight-shift lieutenant. A member of the Department since January 1984, Booker was promoted to sergeant in August 1991, and served as an overseer for the Field Training and Evaluation Program. His most recent assignment running CNS began in 1997, when the unit was created.

Taking over as the new leader of the CNS Unit is Lieutenant James Rafalski, who was transferred from the Uniform Patrol Division, where he was the midnight-shift lieutenant. Rafalski, who has been a member of the Department since May 1981, was promoted to sergeant in 1984. At that rank, he worked in Uniform Patrol, the Detective Bureau, the Special Investigations Unit, and the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) Task Force. He was promoted to the rank of lieutenant in October 1996, and has

served as a uniformed lieutenant since that time. Rafalski will oversee the operations of the CNS Unit, which anticipates some additional expansion of personnel and duties in the coming year.

Assisting Rafalski in the Community Neighborhood Services Unit's expansion will be Sergeant Cora Semrau, who will be transferred to CNS from the Detective Bureau on Sunday, January 31. A member of the Department since January 1983, Semrau was promoted to sergeant in November 1988, serving as a uniform sergeant and, later, a sergeant in the Detective Bureau.

Other Transfers within the Romulus Police Department

- Officer Dwayne DeCaires was transferred to the Detective Bureau on January 17.
- Also as of January 17, Officer Terry Balewski was transferred back to Uniform Patrol Division from his previous assignment with the DEA Task Force.
- Officer Gregg Brandemuhl will leave his assignment with the Western Wayne Auto Theft Unit on January 31, when he will be transferred back to Uniform Patrol. □



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Introducing Eagle Power, the Romulus Robot!

By Kristin Godard, Bobbie Lindsay,
Antoinette Price, and Joshua Turner

Romulus High School is involved in a competition that will become a tradition of the future. Twenty to 30 students are participating in the FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) robotics competition.

FIRST was developed by engineer Dean Kamen, the inventor of the kidney dialysis machine. Students (ranging from freshmen to seniors) involved in the FIRST competition will be teamed up with seven engineers from GM Powertrain in Romulus. Their task is to build a robot which will compete with robots from other schools for various awards.

The Great Lakes Regional Competition will be held at Eastern Michigan University March 25–27, 1999.

The object of the challenge is to accumulate the maximum of 540 points in two minutes. It begins with four robots competing against one another to collect as many "floppies" as possible off the arena floor. (A "floppy" is like a pillow about two feet around.) After collecting the "floppies," our robot must push a 5.5-foot octagonal wooden "puck" to the opponent's side of the ring and climb up on top of it.

Hopefully, our team will develop enough recognition to gain funding so that we may compete at Disney World's EPCOT Center for the Nationals next year.

Our robot, whose name is Eagle Power, will stand four feet high, with a platform that raises to eight feet. (When the platform is raised to its maximum height, we receive bonus points.) Its base will measure 35"x40", and its maximum weight will be 130 pounds. Eagle Power must be built and ready to ship by February 22.

The talented GM Powertrain engineers who are helping the Romulus students with this project are Frank Howard, Director of Mfg. Engineering; Dennis Buczek, Supervisor; Daniel Budnik, Field Engineer; Sammy May, Engineer; and Tom Morgan, John Morr, and Travis Stevens, Engineers IA.

The teachers directing this exciting event are Kristina Mahaney and Terry Bird.

If you or your company would like to help by donating human resources or finances to the FIRST Robotics Program at Romulus High School, contact Doug Hoffman, Assistant Principal, at 941-2170, ext. 144.

Wish us luck. □

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Merriman Gets a Head Start on Black History Month with Book Fair



Richard Kimmey of "Brown Sugar and Spice" shows Dawn Bonam, Merriman Multi-cultural Committee member, one of the books that his company put on display during the school's Black History Book Fair, held January 20.

RHS Alumni Association Seeks Nominations for Hall of Fame

The Romulus High School Alumni Association is soliciting nominations for its annual Hall of Fame induction, which will be held at the High School on Saturday, March 20, 1999.

In order to be eligible for induction, a person must:

- have graduated from Romulus High School prior to September 1989,
- have achieved a measure of success in a particular endeavor or field of work,
- have contributed to his/her chosen profession or life-style through outstanding individual performance or leadership,
- have contributed leadership, time, and/or resources to benefit the City of Romulus or the area in which he/she currently lives, and

- be a potential role model for Romulus students.

Previous Hall of Fame inductees include Terry Mills, John Long, Grant Long, Lloyd Ward, Debi Davis, Bernice Stopera Lindke, and Dean Burcroff.

Nominations may be presented by anyone, and nominees do not have to belong to the Alumni Association. All nominations are due by February 12, and may be sent via FAX (734-941-2388) or U.S. Mail to the Alumni Office (Romulus Alumni Association, 39000 Superior, Romulus, Michigan 48174).

If you have questions about how to prepare a nomination, please call Marge Bergman at 734-941-0272 (8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. weekdays) or at 734-326-0889 (weekday evenings and weekends). □

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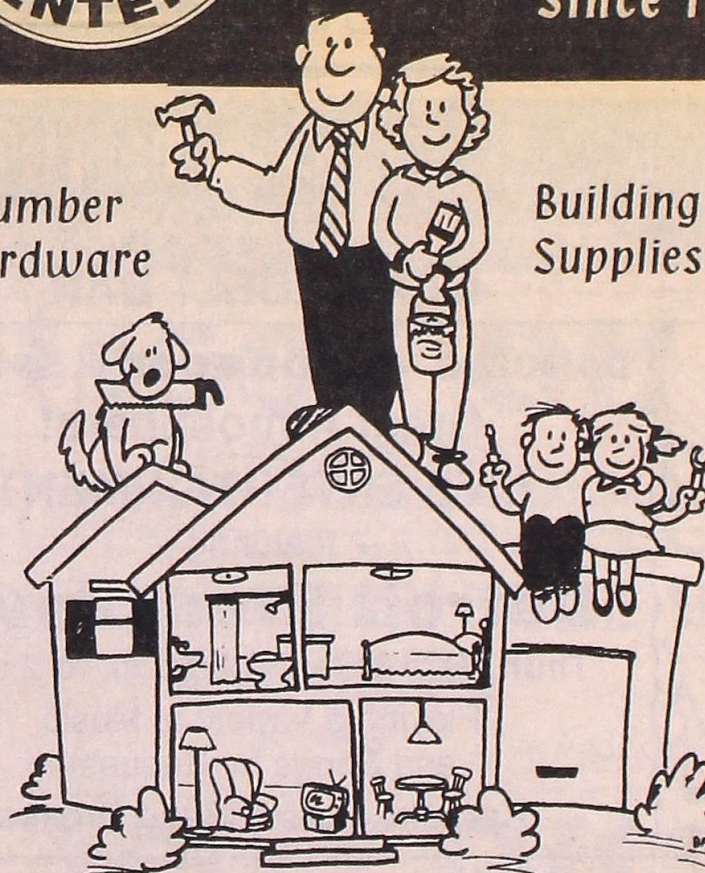
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Recreation Programs

Mother/Son Dance

A very special evening has been planned for Wednesday, February 10, when the Romulus Recreation Center will host its annual Mother/Son Valentine's Dance. The cost to attend this popular event - set for 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. - is \$7 per couple. (An additional \$2 will be charged for each additional boy.) Cost covers admission, refreshments, one picture, and a flower for Mom. Tickets *must* be purchased at the Recreation office by 6 p.m. on Monday, February 8. (Note: If Mom can't make it, ask Grandma, Auntie, or Big Sister.)

Gymnastics

Late registrations are still being accepted for the Recreation Department's gymnastics classes, which have just begun. Cost is \$50 for either the pre-school (ages three to five) or beginners (ages six to nine) sessions.

Youth Basketball

It's not too late to sign up for the Recreation Department's Youth Basketball League, which features play in the following divisions: third- and fourth-grade boys; fifth- and sixth-grade boys; fourth- through sixth-grade girls; Middle School boys; and Middle School girls. Practices are set for evenings and Saturdays. The \$20 cost of the program includes a T-shirt. (Note: Anyone interested in coaching should contact the Recreation office.)

Men's Drop-in Hoops

Adult men who reside in Romulus (proper I.D. required) are invited to play drop-in basketball at Romulus Middle School from 8:30 to 10 p.m. each Tuesday. Cost is \$2 per evening.

Teen Drop-in Basketball

A drop-in basketball program for Romulus teens (proper I.D. required) continues on Thursdays at Wick Elementary. Romulus Middle School students play from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.; students from Romulus High play from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Cost is \$1 per evening.

Other Programs

Other programs offered by the Recreation Department include:

- **Karate** (Tuesdays and Thursdays at the Middle School),
 - **Tai-Chi** (Tuesdays at the Recreation building),
 - **Clogging** (Mondays at the Recreation building), and
 - **Cheer America** (beginning again in February on Wednesdays at Barth).
- For more information, contact the Recreation office. □

Thanks to Debbie Dick, Director, City of Romulus Department of Parks and Recreation, and Keith Brothers, Recreation Coordinator, for supplying information for the "Recreation Programs" column. For more information about these or other offerings, stop in at the Recreation Department Office, 36515 Bibbins, or call 942-6852.

Unless otherwise noted, registration for the following programs should be made at the Romulus Recreation Department during its regular hours.

Little League

Romulus Little League Baseball will accept registrations for its 1999 season at the Romulus Recreation Department office (located at 36515 Bibbins) on the following dates: Friday, January 29, from 5 to 9 p.m.; Friday, February 5, from 5 to 9 p.m.; Saturday, February 6, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.; and Saturday, February 20, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Cost is \$35 per individual or \$50 per family. (Note: All players must sell two cases of candy or pay \$40 extra.)

To register youths ages five to 18 (player's age as of July 31, 1999), a parent or guardian must bring an original birth certificate and proof of residence, along with the entire registration fee.

Early registration is encouraged, since fund-raising money turned in by March 27 earns a bonus!

For more information, call the Little League office (734-955-6204).

Fast-pitch Softball

The Romulus Little League organization also is forming Fast-pitch Softball leagues for the following age groups (player's age as of July 31, 1999): seven to eight (Farm League), nine to 12 (Majors), 13 to 15 (Senior League), and 16 to 18 (Big League).

Registrations will be accepted at the Romulus Recreation office (located at 36515 Bibbins) on the following dates: Friday, January 29, from 5 to 9 p.m.; Friday, February 5, from 5 to 9 p.m.; Saturday, February 6, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.; and Saturday, February 20, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Cost is \$35 per individual or \$50 per family. (Note: All players must sell two cases of candy or pay \$40 extra.)

To register, a parent or guardian must bring an original birth certificate and proof of residence, along with the entire registration fee.

Early registration is encouraged, since fund-raising money turned in by March 27 earns a bonus!

For more information, call the Little League office (734-955-6204).

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Governor's Service Awards Recognize Volunteers

Now in its sixth year, the Governor's Service Awards program seeks to acknowledge the countless Michigan citizens involved in volunteer service, and honor those whose commitment to community and service to others is exemplary. Governor John Engler and the Michigan Community Service Commission (MCSC) support volunteer service as one means to strengthen communities and help solve Michigan's social problems.

The Michigan Community Service Commission has announced that Governor's Service Award nomination forms are still available. Individuals may nominate themselves or others in one of the 15 award categories that honor volunteer service to the community. These categories include:

- youth,
- adult,
- senior,
- national service program,
- national service program member,

- youth service club/civic organization,
- adult service club/civic organization,
- corporation/business,
- service-learning educator,
- community service program manager,
- media/news organization,
- the arts in service,
- innovative spirit, and
- the prestigious Governor George Romney Lifetime Achievement Volunteer Service Award.

Nomination forms are due February 12, 1999.

Five finalists in each of the categories will be selected through an extensive peer review process. The finalists will be recognized at a reception and dinner on May 17, 1999, when they will be honored by the Governor and First Lady, Michelle Engler, for their volunteer contributions. The dinner is sponsored by Ameritech.

Please call the MCSC (517-335-4295) to request a nomination form. □

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Cory Students Honored

Congratulations to the following children who have been recognized as "Students of the Month" at Cory Elementary School for the month of January: Alan Boiler (Ms. Sims, fifth grade), Jonathan Carr (Ms. Cristini, first grade), Tiffany Claiborne (Ms. Miller, fifth grade), Ashleigh Cofield (Ms. Watson, first grade), Joshua Crozier (Mr. Kessler, sixth grade), Jeffrey DuFore (Ms. Pluff, fourth grade), Yetunde Emmanuel (Ms. Walters, fourth grade), Christina Gavin (Mr. Blackburn, fifth grade), Christina Gillespie (Ms. Baluk, second grade), Briana Glenn (Ms. McCabe, kindergarten "B"), Alan Jones (Ms. Walker, third grade), Aaron Ladach (Ms. Barrs, first grade), Kevin Lawrence (Ms. McCabe, kindergarten "A"), Brittany Perry (Ms. Price, third grade), Daniel Shinn (Mr. Smith, sixth grade), Samantha Villarreal (Ms. Radovic, second grade), and Megan Watson (Ms. Giles, second grade). □



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REGULAR MEETING, JANUARY 11, 1999

The Regular Meeting of the Romulus Board of Education held on Monday, January 11, 1999, was called to order by Vice President Betty M. Lenossi at 7:30 P.M.

Roll call showed members Kesner and Woods absent (excused). All administrators were present.

Pledge of Allegiance was led by Vice President Lenossi.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

1/99/1 Moved by Webb supported by Lambert to approve the Agenda as presented. Ayes: 5. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:

1/99/2 Moved by Webb supported by Lambert to approve the Minutes of December 14, 1998, as presented. Ayes: 5. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT:

Personnel Actions

1/99/3 Moved by Webb supported by Lambert to accept the retirement of Arthur McPharlin, Community Relations Director, Effective December 31, 1998. Ayes: 5. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

Dr. Samuel B. La Monica, Director of Human Resources, invited the entire Board of Education to a Recognition Presentation on January 29, 1999, at Romulus High School.

Bills for Payment

1/99/4 Moved by Lambert supported by Webb to approve Bills for Payment as presented by Mr. Joel R. Carr, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations. Ayes: 5. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

Athletic Needs Report - Tom Dolan

1/99/5 Moved by Lambert supported by Dick to accept the recommendations of Mr. Thomas Dolan and Mr. Jesse Meriweather to offer hardball at the Middle School; increase the tennis program in grades eight, nine, and ten; and offer Drama as an elective at the High School. Ayes: 5. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

School Board Recognition Month

Dr. William M. Bedell, Superintendent, discussed the fact that January is National School Board Recognition Month, and distributed a Gift Idea Sheet from which the Board would choose an item.

Mr. Kesner entered the meeting at 7:40 P.M.

Discussion of Lobbyist

Dr. Bedell discussed our possible withdrawal from the MAISL and responded to questions posed by members of the Board. No action was taken.

Mr. Woods entered the meeting at 7:47 P.M.

Communications and Expressions from the Public

Erin Jones, a student at Romulus High School, asked the Board how we determine Act of God Days. Dr. Bedell responded to her question.

Items of Interest from the Superintendent

Dr. Bedell shared the following items of interest with the Board of Education: 1) Leadership Conference; 2) "Thank You" for Al Wilkerson; 3) "Thanks" from Senior Citizens; and 4) "Thanks" to Mayor Oakley.

Questions and/or Concerns of Board Members

Mrs. Dick asked how many more snow days we have. We have none.

Mrs. Lenossi apprised the Board of the African American Achievement Luncheon to be held on January 26, 1999, at the Senior Center.

Executive Session - Negotiations

Canceled.

ADJOURNMENT:

1/99/6 Moved by Berlenn supported by Lenossi that the meeting be adjourned. Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Michael D. Woods, Secretary
Romulus Board of Education

Community Calendar

- **Merriman Celebrates Black History Month** – The public is invited to attend the following programs at Merriman Elementary as it celebrates Black History Month: a formal presentation from the Michigan Department of Civil Rights, which has selected the school to participate in the Martin Luther King Youth Awareness Project (Monday, February 1, at 1:30 p.m. in the cafeteria); and a play, performed by Yvette Austin's sixth-grade class, that portrays people like Dr. King, Rosa Parks, and others instrumental to the Civil Rights Movement (Friday, February 12, at 2 p.m.). For more information, call 734-941-6900.
- **Belleville Business & Professional Women's Club Meets** – The Belleville Business & Professional Women's Club (BPW) is looking for "working women" in all areas of employment, both full- and part-time, who are interested in improving themselves and their community. If this description fits you, the BPW invites you to attend its monthly meeting on Monday, February 2. The meetings are held in the teachers lounge of the Belleville High School cafeteria. Dinner is served promptly at 6:30 p.m. Cost is \$7.50. Reservations are required. For more information, and/or to make a reservation, please contact Jane Vesche, Membership Chair, at 734-697-6677 or 734-697-7400.
- **Romulus Little League Sponsors "Sweetheart Dance"** – In celebration of Valentine's Day, the Romulus Little League will host a "Sweetheart Dance" at VFW Hall (located at 39270 Huron River Drive, Romulus) from 6 p.m. to midnight on Saturday, February 13. Tickets for the semiformal affair – which will feature dinner (served at 7 p.m.), music, dancing, door prizes, and raffles – are \$25 per person or \$40 per couple (beer and setups included; BYOB). For more information, call 734-955-6204.
- **St. Aloysius School Hosts Fish-fry Dinners** – St. Aloysius School will host Fish-fry fund-raisers at the school (located at 37200 Neville Road, behind St. Aloysius Catholic Church) from 4:30 to 7 p.m. every Friday beginning February 19 and continuing through March 26. The menu for each evening will be the same: fish, potatoes, green beans, cole slaw, dessert, and beverage. Tickets are \$6.50 for adults; \$5.50 for senior citizens; and \$3 for children under 10. For more information, please call 734-941-3340.
- **Banquet Will Honor Zeffie Beanum, Greater Romulus Chamber of Commerce Person of the Year** – The Greater Romulus Chamber of Commerce cordially invites you to attend its 19th annual Person of the Year awards banquet to honor Zeffie Beanum, founding member and longtime president of the American Progressive Association, on Friday, March 12, at the DoubleTree Hotel, Romulus. A \$30-per-person donation must be paid at the Chamber office (located at 9191 Wickham, Romulus) no later than March 3. For more information, call Karan Johnson at 734-326-4290.
- **Boys & Girls Clubs Host Orientation Meetings** – The Boys & Girls Clubs of Southeastern Michigan, Romulus Club, invites prospective members (ages six to 18) to attend one of its new-member orientation meetings, held at Merriman Elementary School (15303 Merriman Road) each Wednesday at 7 p.m. and Saturday at 11 a.m. The Club's annual membership fee is \$25; proof of age must be provided at the time of registration. Club hours are Tuesday through Friday from after school until 8:30 p.m.; Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. For more information, call 734-941-5839.
- **Kentuckians of Michigan Host Weekly Events** – The Kentuckians of Michigan host the following events each week at Liberty Park (located on Bredow Road in Romulus): **Live Bluegrass Music/Buffer** (Fridays, 7:30 to 11 p.m.; \$5 admission/additional \$5 for food) and **Bluegrass/Country Jam Session** (Sundays, 3 to 7 p.m.; \$3 admission/additional \$5 for food). Children welcome! For more information, contact Mary Jo Smiley, Program Director, at 313-381-3382.
- **Looking for Classmates of RHS' Class of '79** – Romulus High School's Class of 1979 is aggressively searching for classmates. Call Duane Moffat (734-761-2753) for information concerning a 20-year reunion planned for August 21, 1999.

To place information in our next issue's Community Calendar, mail it to "the little paper" at P.O. Box 74038, Romulus, MI 48174-0038; FAX it to us at 941-4874; or call 941-1907 or 941-3113

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Museum Is "The Place To Be" During Black History Month

The Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History has scheduled a full month of activities for its annual celebration of Black History Month. These activities will include:

Story Theater

The Museum has scheduled four outstanding story theater productions by Von and Fran Washington of Washington Productions, Inc., of Kalamazoo, Michigan. All performances are free with Museum admission. Two performances (10 a.m. and noon) of each of the following programs will be given.

- **Seven Stops To Freedom (February 1)** – Take an exciting journey on the Underground Railroad and meet the Acre family, which escapes from slavery in the deep South and travels north to freedom.
- **Kentucky At Sunrise (February 8)** – This story reenacts a slave raid that Kentucky slave catchers made in Michigan in 1847.
- **The Legend Of Sojourner Truth (February 15)** – A spirit-like encounter with Sojourner Truth 112 years after her death takes Von and Fran back in time to experience the danger of living in America during slavery.
- **The Word Gang (February 22)** – In this adventure, characters Sanko and Kiki try to live up to their "civic responsibility" by attempting to expose a street gang accused by the police of stealing from the community. In their quest to become heroes, they learn that things are not always what they seem.

African American & African Diaspora Perspectives On Film

Each of the following films – free with Museum admission – will be shown at noon.

- **Shackles Of Memory (February 6)** – In this historical film, the grim details of the slave trade are made real through paintings, documents, and artifacts.
- **God Is Angry: The Black Power Movement (February 13)** – Through archival footage, this film traces the history of the painful struggle for civil rights and political power, as well as Farrakan's leadership role within black society.
- **Uncommon Images (February 20)** – This film is a touching portrait of one of the first and foremost photographers of African American life, James Van DerZee.
- **The Freedom Train (February 27)** – Little has been written about the National Negro Labor Council and its history. In this film, its surviving members recall their first convention.

African And African American Expo

The Expo will be held February 20 from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Black History Month Lecture Series: "Hear Our Voices"

The following lectures are scheduled for 1 to 3 p.m.

- **The People And Their Street Graffiti: Interpretations of Black Socio-political Images In The Inner City (February 6)** – The social condition of blacks in the 1990s has prompted a recent street graffiti/mural movement similar to the first black street graffiti movement of the 1960s, when ideas of justice, hope, and liberation were painted on outdoor walls. As part of an ongoing study, journalist/artist Marcus Amick takes an in-depth look at the specific context in which these images have evolved and functioned during the 1990s.
- **Early America Revisited (February 13)** – Join literary critic, linguist, and anthropologist, Professor Ivan Van Sertima – author of *They Came Before Columbus: The African Presence in Ancient America* – for an enlightening slide/lecture presentation on his newest novel, *Early America Revisited*.
- **The Hero With An African Face: Mythic Wisdom Of Traditional Africa (February 27)** – With the passion of a poet, the sensibilities of a scholar, and the heart of a seeker, Dr. Clyde W. Ford will take you on a journey into the mythologies of sub-Saharan Africa.

"Of The People: The African American Experience" Exhibition-based Workshops for Grades K-12

Workshops will be offered throughout February based on the eight stations of the core exhibit: *The African Memory*; *The Crime*; *Survival of Spirit*; *The Imperfect Union*; *Freedom and Betrayal*; *Urban Struggle/Urban Splendor*; *The Struggle for Empowerment*; and *Becoming the Future*. For specific information, contact the Education Department (313-494-5847).

Exhibits

Exhibits featured during Black History Month will include *Of the People: The African American Experience*; *Wade in the Water: African American Sacred Music Traditions*; *New For You: Recent Acquisitions of the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History*; *Life*; and *Black Fighter Pilots and The Tuskegee Airmen*.

About the Museum

The Museum – located at 315 East Warren at the corner of Brush Street in Detroit's Cultural Center – will be open from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., seven days a week, in February. Admission is \$5 for adults; \$3 for children under 18. Members are admitted free with their membership card. For more information, call 313-494-5800. □

Sassy Seniors

By Mary E. Clark

Special thanks to Linda Norman, Senior Citizens Program Coordinator for the City of Romulus, and Audry Moomaw, Manager of the Romulus Tower, for contributing information to this issue's "Sassy Seniors" column.

(Note: For more information about events at the Romulus Senior Center, located at 36515 Bibbins, call 942-6852.)

Just a Reminder

The Romulus Senior Center will be closed on Friday, February 12, for Abraham Lincoln's birthday, and on Monday, February 15, in observance of George Washington's birthday.

Free Tax Service for Seniors

Beginning in February and continuing through April 14, volunteers from the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) will be available (by appointment only) at the Romulus Senior Center each Wednesday from 12:30 to 3 p.m. to assist low- and moderate-income Romulus seniors with the preparation of their Federal and State 1040 forms, as well as those for property-tax, home-heating, and prescription credits.

A list of materials which must be brought to the appointment will be provided at the time of registration.

Celebrate Fat Tuesday with Paczkis

Make the most of Fat Tuesday's excuse to splurge on February 16, when the Romulus Senior Center will serve hot coffee and fresh paczkis (pronounced "poonchkies") – two to a customer – from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. Cost is just \$1. Sign up at the Center.

Lunch In ...

The Romulus Senior Center invites you to join your old and soon-to-be friends for a Valentine-theme luncheon at 1 p.m. on Friday, February 26.

Among the event's highlights will be the crowning of this year's Senior King and Queen, who will be selected from the group of nominees by a panel of three judges. (All nominations must be submitted to the Senior Center by Friday, February 19.) Last year's King and Queen, Louis Mitchell and Dolores Nowlin, will be on hand to pass along their scepters.

Veggie lasagna, bread, salad, vegetable, and dessert will be served.

Cost is \$4.50. Sign up at the Center. ... and Lunch Out

Go out for lunch on Wednesday, February 10, when the Senior Center van travels to Cracker Barrel in Belleville. Cost is \$1.50 for transportation, plus the price of your meal. Sign up at the Center.

Holiday Market

On Wednesday, February 17, the Center's van will be taking interested seniors to Holiday Market, a pleasant alternative for buying groceries, flowers, and more. Cost is \$1.50 for transportation. Sign up at the Center.

Shopping Trips

For a transportation cost of \$1.50, Romulus seniors can ride the Center's van on Friday, February 5, for shopping at Southland Mall and the Taylor Target store. Space is limited; payment of the transportation fee reserves your seat on a first-come, first-served basis. No refunds will be made unless there is a waiting list. Sign up at the Center.

Crime Watch

Officer Joe Richardson of the Romulus Police Department will be on hand at the Senior Center at 9 a.m. on Thursday, February 25, for the Center's monthly Crime Watch program. As always, safety tips and other crucial information will be discussed.

"Ask the Attorney"

Local attorney Steve Robinson's monthly "Ask the Attorney" program – a free consultation service for Romulus senior citizens – has been scheduled for Wednesday, February 17, from 3 to 5 p.m. at the Romulus Senior Center. Both walk-ins (36515 Bibbins) and call-ins (942-6852) are welcome.

Haircuts

Senior citizens can come into the Romulus Senior Center for \$5 haircuts on the second Monday of each month beginning at 10:30 a.m. Walk-ins are welcome, but, for your own convenience, the Center recommends calling ahead for an appointment. (Note: Since "shampoo" facilities are not available, seniors must wash their hair before coming in.)

Exercise/Toning

The Senior Center invites you to drop in at any of its free toning/stretching/aerobic exercise classes, which are held on Tuesdays and Fridays at 9:30 a.m. Refreshments will be served.

The Center recommends that all participants wear comfortable clothing, and urges anyone unused to physical exertion to consult a physician before beginning.

Free Blood-pressure Check

Rachel O'Neal, a registered nurse who resides here in Romulus, has generously agreed to donate one afternoon per month to perform free blood-pressure checks at the Romulus Senior Center. Next date: Wednesday, February 3, from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. Be sure to drop in. □

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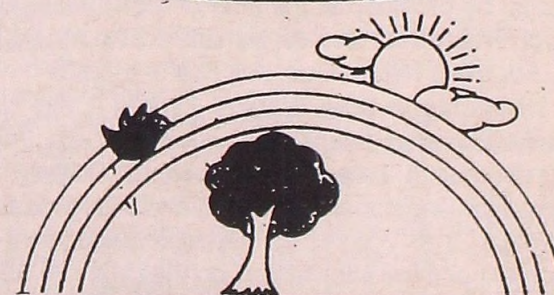
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P.O. Box 74038
Romulus, Michigan 48174-0038

Baby's Name _____
Birthdate _____ Time _____
Weight _____ Length _____
Birthplace _____
Parents _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Siblings _____

Maternal Grandparents _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Paternal Grandparents _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Name and phone number of person to contact (in case of questions): _____

Attach any additional information concerning the birth to this form.

ENGAGEMENT/WEDDING ANNOUNCEMENT FORM

If you, or your parents, are residents of Romulus, *The Romulus News* will be happy to print an announcement of your engagement or wedding. If possible, please enclose a photograph. There is no charge. Just fill out the following information and mail to:

THE ROMULUS NEWS
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City _____ State _____
Groom's Name _____
City _____ State _____
Bride's Parents _____
City _____ State _____
Groom's Parents _____
City _____ State _____
Bridesmaids _____
Groomsmen _____
Date of Engagement _____
Date of Wedding _____
Place _____
City _____ State _____
Reception _____
City _____ State _____
Name and phone number of person to contact (in case of questions): _____

Attach any additional information concerning the wedding or engagement to this form.

The Stork Arrived

Jordyn Faye Banks

Paul Banks and Jamie Kniceley of Romulus, Michigan are proud to announce the birth of their first child, Jordyn Faye Banks.

Born in Oakwood Hospital Annapolis Center (Wayne, MI) at 6:11 p.m. on Saturday, November 7, 1998, Jordyn weighed six pounds, six ounces, and measured 20 inches in length.

Among those giving the new arrival a warm welcome into the family were her paternal grandparents, Daniel and Linda Banks (Romulus, MI), and her maternal grandparents, Jim Kniceley (Belleville, MI) and Karen Leach (National City, MI). □



Jordyn Faye Banks

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Obituary

Melvin C. Schultz, Sr.

Melvin C. Schultz, Sr., of Romulus, Michigan, died on Saturday, January 16, 1999, at the age of 76.

The Great Lakes Steel retiree – a native of Detroit, Michigan – was born on April 8, 1922. He and his wife, Barbara (Smith) Schultz, were married on September 25, 1964.

Melvin is survived by his wife; one daughter, Marjorie Loske (New Boston, MI); two sons, Melvin Jr. (Ann Arbor, MI) and Allen (and his wife Dawn) Schultz (Romulus, MI); one sister, Viola Lett (Skidway Lake,

MI); seven grandchildren; and 16 great-grandchildren.

He was predeceased by one daughter, Carol Gabri, as well as three brothers and three sisters.

A funeral service was held on Wednesday, January 20, at Romulus Wesleyan Church (Romulus, MI), with the Reverend Stephen F. Adams officiating. Interment was at Riverside Cemetery (Clinton, MI).

Memorial tributes may be made to Romulus Wesleyan Church and/or Hospice of Michigan. □



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